

Document Citation

Title	The searchers
Author(s)	David Thomson
Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	2007 Mar 03
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The searchers, Ford, John, 1956

THE SEARCHERS

Director: John Ford • USA 1956 119 minutes • Cast: John Wayne, Vera Miles, Jeffrey Hunter

Cinemathèque Ontario Winter 2007

Ford's "finest and most ambitious film. . . . A deeply emotional experience that is also a grand entertainment" (James Monaco). Vying with RULES OF THE GAME (showing this season as a Limited Run) and CITIZEN KANE as the most perennial mainstay in polls and lists of the greatest films of all time, THE SEARCHERS is inexhaustible, both as ideological text and as a work of great resonance and beauty. John Wayne plays Ethan Edwards, a bitter, taciturn Confederate veteran whose family is slaughtered and whose niece is abducted by Comanches. Ethan's search for the girl turns into a vengeful seven-year odyssey into the wilderness of Monument Valley. As controversial as it is influential – Schrader, Scorsese, Spielberg, and many others have invoked it in their own films – THE SEARCHERS has been condemned as racist, and praised for its psychological and thematic complexity, formal beauty, and harsh poeticism. "Moving and mysterious. . . . A riveting, tragic, and complex experience" (David Thomson).

Saturday, March 3 2:00 p.m. G

